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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/50/L.17/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 6, 8, 11, 16, 17, 19 and 24 of draft resolution A/50/L.17/Rev.1, the General Assembly would:

(a) Commend the efforts of the peoples and Governments of the Central American countries to consolidate peace and promote sustainable development by implementing the agreements adopted at the summit meetings, and request the Secretary-General to continue to give the fullest possible support to the initiatives and activities of the Governments of the Central American countries;

(b) Support the concern of the Central American countries to create a new model of regional security based on a reasonable balance of forces and the pre-eminence of civil authority, urge the Security Commission to pursue negotiations for the preparation of the treaty on democratic security in Central America, which constitutes one of the basic aims of the Central American Integration System, and request the Secretary-General to provide it with the requisite support in a timely manner;

(c) Stress the importance of intensifying the serious and resolute negotiations between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca; and urge that negotiations on the remaining agenda items

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should be concluded without delay, with a view to reaching at the earliest possible date a firm and lasting peace agreement, thus completing the peace process in Central America;

(d) Request the Secretary-General, the organizations of the United Nations system and the international community to continue their support for the peace process and hence for efforts to promote national reconciliation, democracy and development in Guatemala;

(e) Reiterate its recognition of the effective and timely participation of the Secretary-General and his representatives and encourage them to continue to take all necessary steps to ensure the successful implementation of all the commitments made by the parties to the El Salvador Peace Agreement, including the joint effort undertaken by the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional to obtain resources to facilitate the full implementation of the Peace Agreement;

(f) Recognize the achievements made by the people and Government of Nicaragua in their efforts to consolidate peace, democracy and reconciliation among Nicaraguans, as well as the importance of reaching a national understanding in order to define a national development strategy through political dialogue and economic and social consultation among all sectors of the country, thereby strengthening grass-roots support for the country's reconstruction; and also emphasize how important it is for the Secretary-General to comply with Nicaragua's request for observers to be present during the electoral process in 1996;

(g) Express its appreciation of the work of the support group for Nicaragua (Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden), which, under the coordination of the Secretary-General, is playing an active role in supporting the country's efforts towards economic recovery and social development, particularly with regard to solving the external debt problem and securing investments and new resources that will allow the country's economic and social reconstruction programmes to continue, and request the Secretary-General to continue to support those efforts;

(h) Reiterate its full appreciation and gratitude to the Secretary-General for his efforts to promote the pacification process and the consolidation of peace in Central America, and to the groups of friendly countries which have made a direct contribution to attaining those ends, and request that those efforts be maintained.

B. Relationship of the requests to the approved programme of work

2. The above requests relate to subprogramme 1, Good offices, preventive diplomacy and peacemaking, of programme 1, Good offices, preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping, research and the collection and analysis of information, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised. While resources are provided in the programme budget for activities in support of the Secretary-General's functions in the area of international peace and

security, related activities are often not programmed in the programme budget since their very nature often precludes such an approach. This is true of the Secretary-General's activities in promoting a firm and lasting peace in Central America.

C. Activities by which the request would be implemented

3. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would, with respect to the requests outlined in paragraph 1 above:

(a) Continue to give the fullest possible support to the initiatives and activities of the Governments of the Central American countries;

(b) Continue to support, and participate actively in the negotiations between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca; support actively the implementation of agreements that have already been reached, including through the provision of substantive support and political guidance to the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA) with regard to monitoring and verification functions; and to bring his active support, including verification, to the process of implementation of further agreements to be reached as foreseen in the Framework Agreement of 10 January 1994;

(c) Continue to provide substantive support and political guidance to the Mission of the United Nations in El Salvador (MINUSAL) in carrying out its verification and good offices functions; and, after its discontinuation, undertake activities, within the framework of the Peace Accords, to facilitate the completion of their implementation;

(d) Devise modalities, in collaboration with the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, for the provision of observers of the Nicaraguan electoral process in 1996; and continue to provide support for the support group for Nicaragua as requested in paragraph 19 of the draft resolution.

D. Additional requirements at full cost

4. At its forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions, the General Assembly authorized two temporary posts (1 P-5 and 1 General Service) for 1992 and 1993 pursuant to resolutions 46/109 A of 17 December 1991 and 47/118 of 18 December 1992 respectively. Reflecting the expanded support activities required under resolution 48/161 of 20 December 1993 and 49/137 of 19 December 1994, the General Assembly authorized for 1995 the continuation of the two temporary posts and the establishment of one additional Professional post at the P-4 level to assist in the Central American peace process.

5. As reflected in the latest reports of the Secretary-General on this item (A/49/489 and Corr.1 and A/50/499), the Secretary-General remains closely involved in the peace process in Central America. There is a continuing need

for the good offices of the Secretary-General in Guatemala and El Salvador, for his support for the support group for Nicaragua mentioned above, and for the continued backstopping of MINUGUA and MINUSAL. In addition, if draft resolution A/50/L.17/Rev.1 were adopted, the General Assembly would request a broad scope of activities by the Secretary-General, which would include the need to be ready to support the full implementation of the agreements in El Salvador beyond the departure of MINUSAL. It is also anticipated that the United Nations will, in due course, be called upon to verify further agreements to be concluded, with respect to Guatemala, as foreseen in the Framework Agreement of 10 January 1994.

6. It is anticipated that, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the activities outlined in paragraph 3 above would require the continuation of three temporary posts (1 P-5, 1 P-4, and 1 General Service posts) to assist in all aspects of the Secretary-General's involvement in the Central American peace process.

7. The Political Affairs Officer at the P-5 level would be specifically assigned the preparatory work which is stipulated in the terms of the Agreement on the establishment of the Commission to clarify past human rights violations and acts of violence that have caused the Guatemalan population to suffer signed by the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (A/48/954-S/1994/751, annex II). The officer's main responsibilities would include researching the scope and functioning of other "Truth Commissions" in which the United Nations and national bodies have been involved and discuss with relevant experts the substantive and practical experience acquired which may be useful and applicable to the Guatemalan case. In addition, the officer would put forward, in consultation with the Guatemalan Government, the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca and sectors of Guatemalan society, proposals regarding the following:

(a) The historical framework of violence and human rights violations during the past 35 years of armed conflict;

(b) The structure by which the Commission shall receive, investigate and process complaints regarding violent events;

(c) The parameters of political, judicial and administrative recommendations which the Commission should transmit eventually to Guatemalan authorities in order to eradicate impunity and prevent further violations;

(d) Ways in which the State, key institutions such as the Army and the Judiciary, and civil society at large, should preserve the memory of the victims, foster reconciliation and observance of human rights and strengthen the democratic process within Guatemala.

8. One of the Political Affairs Officers at the P-4 level would continue to assist the Secretary-General or his Special Representative in the peace processes in El Salvador and Nicaragua. The responsibilities would include the backstopping and provision of support and political guidance to MINUSAL in carrying out its verification and good offices functions, and, after its discontinuation, the provision of assistance to the Secretary-General as he undertook activities to facilitate the full implementation of the peace

agreements. With respect to Nicaragua, this officer would continue to assist the Secretary-General in the provision of support for that country's "support group", and, in consultation with members of the Electoral Assistance Division, devise modalities for the provision of observers of the Nicaraguan electoral process in 1996.

9. The continuation of the General Service (other level) post is requested to provide secretarial support to the two officers.

10. On a full-cost basis, the requirements are estimated as follows:

(a)	Staff	
	Salary and common staff costs of one P-5, one P-4, and one General Service (other level) staff for 12 months in 1996	$275 300
(b)	Travel	45 000
	Total	$320 300

E. Potential for absorption

11. No provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 under section 3, Peace-keeping Operations and special missions, to cover the estimated additional requirements of $320,300 related to the provision of the additional staff required to support the Secretary-General's continuing efforts in this area. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the related requirements could be absorbed from within the provision under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

F. Indication of additional requirements

12. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, it is estimated that additional resources of $320,300 would be required for 1996 under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

G. Contingency fund

13. The Secretary-General is of the view that the activities called for in the draft resolution are of an extraordinary nature relating to the maintenance of peace and security, and should be dealt with outside the procedures related to the contingency fund, as provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986.

H. Summary

14. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, an additional appropriation of $320,300 would be required under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. An additional appropriation of $60,900 would also be required under section 32, Staff assessment, offset by the same amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.